

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 15293 281829Z

63

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9271

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, MPOL, UR, US

SUBJC PRAVDA AGAIN ON CIVIL DEFENSE AND STRATEGIC BALANCE

REF: MOSCOW 3566

1. PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT E. RUSAKOV, WRITING FOR NEW YORK, CLAIMS THAT THERE IS "NEW PENTAGON CANARD" ALLEGING THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS ATTEMPTING TO GAIN NUCLEAR SUPERIORITY, AND CITES SOVIET EFFORTS IN CIVIL DEFENSE AS PROOF. RUSAKOV WRITES THAT U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT (USNWR) ARTICLE IS CONDUSING READERS, BECAUSE "LOCAL AIR DEFENSE" HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE SINCE BEFORE THE WAR AND EXISTS IN THE USA ALSO. IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY LACK OF U.S. NUCLEAR RESTRAINT, USNWR COMES UP WITH NEW ESTIMATION OF RUSSIAN CIVIL DEFENSE PROGRAM WHICH PICTURES IT AS UPSETTING STRATEGIC NUCLEAR BALANCE. INFACIT THIS IS JUST NEW OCCASION TO USE "MILITARY THREAT" FROM USSR TO JUSTIFY ARMS RACE IN U.S. AND "TO EXTORT BILLIONS OF DOLLARS FOR THE PROGRAM OF DEVELOPING NEW WEAPONS SYSTEM," SAYS RUSAKOV. THE

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SOURCE OF MAGAZINE'S INFORMATION IS PENTAGON, HE WRITES,

AND GOES ON TO CITE NEW WEAPON SYSTEMS ADVOCATED BY
USNWR TO UPGRADE ICBM, DEVELOP ANTI-MISSILE DEFENSE
SYSTEM AND DEPLOY "SEMI-MOBILE" MISSILES AT TOTAL COST
OF 30 BILLION DOLLARS. ARTICLE ENDS BY HOPING THAT
COMMON SENSE WILL HELP AMERICANS TO PROPERLY ASSESS
THIS LATEST CANARD, OF MAGAZINE.

2. COMMENT. THIS IS SECOND PICKUP WE HAVE SEEN IN
SOVIET PRESS OF U.S. CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET CIVIL DEFENSE
EFFORTS (SEE REFTEL).
MALTOCK

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